



State of Connecticut

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Joint Committee on General Law **Public Hearing** **03/06/2012**

Testimony in support of HB 5360, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF CERTAIN DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES, ITEMS AND PRODUCTS TO MINORS AND PROHIBITING CERTAIN PERSONS FROM ALLOWING MINORS TO POSSESS ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR IN DWELLING UNITS AND ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

Chairmen Doyle and Taborsak, Ranking Members Witkos and Rebimbas and members of the General Law Committee.

I thank you for incorporating a concept in this bill suggested to me by Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi and Ridgefield Police Chief John Roche.

Unfortunately, Ridgefield has had a number of instances of late where minors were using alcoholic beverages in private residences when parents were present.

On November 29, 2009 a 19 year old man died in a car accident. It was later determined that he was drinking at a home with the homeowner present.

On August 14, 2011, a 16 year old young lady later was killed in an automobile accident. She had been drinking at a party with an adult present.



This is a photograph of the remains of the vehicle that the 16 year old was driving.

On December 31, 2011, A 58-year-old Ridgefield man was charged with delivering alcohol to minors after police broke up a party at his home. The homeowner admitted that he knew alcohol was being served to minors. Approximately 32 minors were at the residence; at least six were passed out.

The proposed bill simply makes responsible, an adult on the property where underage drinking takes place.

It became obvious with our recent experiences in Ridgefield that an adult could claim ignorance when a drinking event – in some cases large – was taking place at their premises.

I thank Ridgefield Police Chief Roche for bringing this matter to my attention and strongly encourage the General Law JF this bill. I have no doubt that this will raise parental awareness and hopefully save lives.

Thank you.